

# **Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd**

Minutes of board meeting of 23 May 2007, Substitution Pty Ltd, 1/484 William Street, North Melbourne.

Present: Dianne Batterham, Niel Black, David Dinning, Graeme Charles, Tony O'Shea (Chairman) and David Griffiths (Secretary)

## **1. Minutes**

That the minutes of the meeting of 15 March 2007 be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

## **2. State Co-operative Federations Meeting**

It was agreed at the board meeting on 15 March 2007 that CFV would request the following agenda items be considered at the CCA meeting:

1. Co-operative Education and Co-operative Identity
2. Membership of the ICA
3. Co-operative Legislation including new WA legislation
4. Small co-operatives and audits
5. Retail co-operative workshop
6. A national Executive Officer

It was noted that demutualisation had subsequently been added.

Graeme Charles and David Griffiths attended and reported on the meeting of the Co-operative Council of Australia in Sydney on 19 May 2007 as achieving the following positive outcomes:

- 1) Support for the Retail Co-operative Workshop with the formation a joint Retail Co-operative Workshop Organising Committee comprising CFV, CFNSW and CFSA.
- 2) CFNSW committed to organising a one-day Co-operative Intenders Workshop in July 2007 to take advantage of Chris Cooper's availability in Australia for the Capricorn Workshop.
- 3) CFNSW interest in the development of and sourcing \$30,000 for a e-learning package developed with the UK Co-operative College.
- 4) Support for exempting small co-operatives from audits varied between the Federations with Queensland and WA supporting on the basis of a similar exemption for small companies under Corporations Law.
- 5) Agreement to organise two further meetings of the CCA through teleconferences with the cost of these shared between the Federations.
- 6) Agreement to write to appropriate Ministers and officials regarding ccu's and mutual recognition expressing disappointment and concern with the lack of progress and subsequently issuing a CCA news release for use by individual Federations.

It was noted that CFV had agreed to pay the costs of the first teleconference.

It was also noted that there was not support from other Federations for membership of the ICA primarily because of cost considerations.

Graeme Charles reported that funding for the e-learning material would be sought from the Victorian Telematics Trust. It was noted that applications closed on 10 August 2007 and that Chris Cooper would prepare the application for CFV.

#### **4. Co-operative Education**

It was noted that the Co-operative College brochure had been discussed at the 15 March 2007 board meeting and whether it was sufficiently dynamic and persuasive to persuade co-operatives and co-operatives to participate in a Co-operative Identity workshop and three options were discussed:

Redesigning the cover.

Redesigning the cover and rewriting the content.

Producing a separate and shorter complementary brochure.

Directors had been asked to provide comments on the options to the Secretary by 22 March 2007 but that no comments had been received by 23 May 2007 with the exception of the Secretary.

It was noted that potential speakers for the Retail Co-operative workshops included the CEO of Foodstuffs in New Zealand and representatives from retail co-operatives in the UK. It was noted that Chris Cooper was approaching the UK representatives.

#### **5. australia.coop**

The board considered whether or not to use Google Ads on the australia.coop web site as a possible source of income generation for the site.

**That Google Ads be installed on the australia.coop web site on a trial basis.**

It was noted that the Ads would be reviewed for (a) their appropriateness and (b) capacity to generate income.

#### **6. Housing Co-operatives**

It was agreed at the board meeting on 15 March 2007 that a training proposal for housing co-operatives would be forwarded to the Social Housing Sector, Department of Human Services. This would be prepared by the Secretary and forwarded by the Chairman.

The Secretary reported that there was nothing to report.

## **7. IAS**

It was noted that the CCA meeting had briefly discussed the impact of IAS on co-operative accounting practices and had been pessimistic.

It was noted that the New Zealand Co-operative Association was still pursuing the issue with their accountancy board.

David Griffiths and Graeme Charles reported that at the CCA meeting it had been proposed by CFQ that the capital of a co-operative should be treated as permanent and that this required legislative change and would resolve the problem of IAS treating equity as debt.

It was agreed that if a co-operative had an unconditional right to refuse redemption of members' shares this would resolve the issue.

## **8. State Services Authority Review of Not For Profit Regulation**

It was agreed at the board meeting on 15 March 2007 to prepare a submission on small co-operatives and audits.

The Secretary reported that a submission had not been prepared.

## **9. Meeting with Minister for Agriculture**

Tony O'Shea reported on a meeting with the Minister for Agriculture, Joe Helper, on 16 March 2007. He reported that the Minister had agreed to facilitate a meeting with Consumer Affairs Minister Daniel Andrews.

It was noted that the agreed briefing notes should now be prepared:

CFV access to annual returns  
Co-operatives Regulations 1997  
Health co-operatives  
Small co-operatives and audits

## **10. Financial Statements**

It was noted that the cash balance at 21/5/07 was \$10,332 – compared with \$4255 at 1/07/2006. It was noted that income was \$77,079.

**That the statement of receipts and payments for period 1 July 2006 – 20 May 2007 be adopted as amended.**

## **11. Executive Officer**

Graeme Charles' paper, Brief Discussion Paper re consideration of appointment of an Executive Officer, was discussed at the board meeting on 15 March 2007 and it was agreed that further consideration needed to be given to the role of an Executive Officer.

This matter was further deferred for future consideration.

## **12. Health Co-operatives**

The following documents were circulated by Graeme Charles before the meeting:

Health Co-operatives in Other Countries – a snapshot

Co-operatives and Health Care in Qaustralia

Co-operatives and Healthcare Project – Interim Re4port May 2007

Saskatoon Community Clinic

Westgate Health

## **13. Australian Wheat Board**

That a letter be forwarded to the VFF supporting consideration of establishing a wheat marketing co-operative to replace the AWB.

## **14. Future Directors**

It was noted that Graeme Charles and David Griffiths had approached other co-operatives about potential future directors. They reported success with SouthEast Housing Co-operative and that other discussions were proceeding – including with the Chairman of Murray Goulburn Co-operative Co Ltd

## **15. Audit**

Tony O'Shea reported that he would be discussing future CFV audits with the Avoca auditor Max Sartori..

**Next Meeting:** 10: 30. am, 19 July 2007, Substitution Pty Ltd, 1/484 William Street, North Melbourne

Prepared by David Griffiths: 01 June 2007

Approved by Tony O'Shea: June 2007

Emailed to directors: June 2007

Snail mailed to directors: June 2007

# **Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd**

## **2007 Schedule of Board and AGM meetings**

### **Board**

Start time: 10:30am

Venue: Substitution Pty Ltd, 1/484 William Street, North Melbourne

15 March 2007

17 May 2007

19 July 2007

20 September 2007

15 November 2007

### **AGM**

15 November 2007

Start time: 12:00 Midday

Venue: Urban Camp Melbourne Co-operative, Brens Drive, Parkville